

## **PROJECTS WITH COASTAL SAGE SCRUB (CSS) HABITAT**

**PERMITS AFFECTED** – Grading Permits, Improvement Plans, Brushing and Clearing Permits

Zoning Counter staff will check for the presence of Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) on the project property using the habitat maps on the computer. If present, or within 250 feet (1/4 inch on maps), you will be informed CSS **potentially** occurs on the site and that a Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) may be required.

For those projects that are within 250 feet of Coastal Sage Scrub, or when the presence of the habitat is disputed, the applicant has the following options available **prior to filing a Habitat Loss Permit (HLP)**:

1. Take representative photos of the site. Make an appointment with one of the department staff who is designated to review photos for the presence or absence of Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS). An affidavit will be required stating that the photos are representative of the project site.

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PHOTODOCUMENTATION MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE CONCLUSIVE. IN THOSE CASES, THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS MAY ALSO BE PURSUED PRIOR TO FILING AN APPLICATION FOR A HABITAT LOSS PERMIT (HLP).**

2. Request review of previous environmental documents. The standard environmental review fee per the Fee Schedule will be charged for the service.
3. Submit a letter from a qualified biologist stating that the site does not contain Coastal Sage Scrub.
4. Request County environmental staff to look at the site to determine the presence or absence of Coastal Sage Scrub. A standard time and materials charge will be required for this service.

A determination that the site contains Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) will require that a Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) be filed. See Habitat Loss Permit application requirements.